

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13  
AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /090 W  
-----023691 011322Z /43

O 011255Z JUL 77 ZFF-1  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4390

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6171

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CG US  
SUBJECT: MOBUTU ANNOUNCES FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS: A STEP TOWARD  
DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZATION

1. IN A SPEECH TO THE NATION ON JULY 1, PRESIDENT MOBUTU ANNOUNCED  
FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM MEASURES, NOTABLY:  
--A PRIME MINISTER FORM OF GOVERNMENT;  
--DIRECT ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU, THE  
MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND OF URBAN COMMISSIONERS;  
-- THE INTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT HIMSELF FOR  
REELECTION BY THE PARTY CONGRESS, IN SPITE OF THE FACT  
THAT THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT REQUIRE THIS;  
--DECENTRALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY ON A REGIONAL BASIS  
AND THE SUBORDINATION OF ALL CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
TO THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS;  
--CREATION OF AN AUDIT SYSTEM TO CHECK ON ALL EXPENDITURES  
BY STATE ORGANIZATIONS OR STATE-OWNED ENTITIES;  
--ARMY REFORM, (NO DETAILS, BUT THRUST IS BASICALLY AS WE HAVE  
REPORTED IN PAST, INCLUDING PROBABLE ABOLITION OF THE  
POST OF CAPTAIN GENERAL.)  
IN ADDITION, MOBUTU HINTED AT RECONCILIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET  
UNION AND REITERATED HIS PROFOUND THANKS FOR SUPPORT ZAIRE HAD  
RECEIVED FROM ITS MANY FRIENDS DURING THE SHABA WAR, ESPECIALLY  
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THE FRENCH AND THE MOROCCANS.

2. FOREGOING IS TAKEN FROM SPEECH AS HEARD. FULLER DETAILS WILL  
BE REPORTED LATER, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT MOBUTU'S JULY 1 SPEECH  
PROMISES A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM THE CURRENT POLITICAL  
SYSTEM. AS EVER IN ZAIRE, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE WAY IN WHICH  
THE REFORMS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT MOBUTU

HAS BEGUN A PROCESS WHICH COULD LEAD TOWARD MORE DEMOCRACY AND  
DECENTRALIZATION. ONLY A HANDFUL OF ZAIRIANS AND FOREIGNERS  
BELIEVED THAT HE COULD OR WOULD TAKE THE STEPS HE HAS TAKEN. IN  
OUR JUDGMENT, EVERYONE, ZAIRIANS AND FOREIGNERS ALIKE, SHOULD  
ENCOURAGE HIM TO PURSUE THE REFORMS HE HAS ANNOUNCED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMOCRACY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, SPEECHES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977KINSHA06171  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** MOBUTU ANNOUNCES FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS: A STEP TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, CG, US, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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